# medical missionary

winter 1969

# YOUNG AND

Medical Mission Sisters today are a diverse group. Some are very young and others not so young. They wear western clothes, Indian *saris,* the Pakistani *shalwar* and *chemise,* Indonesian dress, as well as variations of the traditional habit. Their personal points of view and styles of life are myriad, each deeply colored by her nationality, her profession, her experience in developing countries. Yet this very diversity is the basis of our cohesion. We need one another. Because we are so different, we depend on one another to make the whole a reality. And the whole? It is simply this: to heal in the name of Christ.

If you can penetrate beneath the kaleidoscopic expressions of individuality, of language and of culture, you will discover that all of us are seeking the same goals. Personal relationship and interaction are one. World health is another. The peace and love flowing from belief in Christ is a third. We have agreed to seek together, and so we remain unmarried, we share what we have, we go wherever we are sent. Because these cohesion points are so central and so deep, we need no rigid set of specific rules and exterior structures to insure loyalty and permanence. Our unity roots itself in another order—that of personal commitment to God, to one another and to the sick. It is hard. Few people

# INVOLVED

are willing to trust others to the point of pluriformity, so we constantly have to affirm one another's sincerity and right to be exactly who she is. We know that if we do not trust, then one more facet of the diamond, so to speak, is clouded over.

When a woman comes to join us, to be part of what we are, we ask her to create her own role in the Society. Her future is ours. Together, we explore the meaning of prayer, the demands of the Gospel, and all the ramifications of healing in developing countries. More and more, we are relying on a woman's own maturity to take a stand with us in facing the problems of our community living and of world development. Again, it is not an easy thing to do, and not very many elect to do so. In the final analysis, vocation is solely a question of personal choice.

One of our greatest assets is the fact that the Society has been in existence only 44 years. When one is young, it is easy to grab hold of life at its roots and burst recklessly with it to the sky. Youth is characterized by an eagerness of mind, an openness of heart and a spontaneity of spirit that dream such dreams as to change the world. More courage and determination make up for less prudence and wisdom. But every age has its own maturity, and this youthfulness is ours.

The Medical Missionary is published quarterly with ecclesiastical approbation by the Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries, Inc. Subscription: 1 Yr. $2.00; 2 Yrs. $3.00. 2nd Class postage paid at Philadelphia, Pa. Form 3579 Medical Mission Sisters, Philadelphia, Pa. 19111

One of my great treasures is my youth—to be able to settle in but not down. I question. I do not expect answers. That would be unrealistic. To have many answers would be to stop discovering, to stop being young.

My system receives and responds. I need a loving base to reach out from. I need the support of the community. It gives me energy—some days it's kinetic and some days it's potential, but it's there and it keeps me going.

At the time of commitment, I chose all the consequences that go along with it. Once I have chosen my influences, I am free to explore them in depth. A free decision is autonomous, self-contained, self-initiated. I have freely chosen the Gospel in the context of the Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries, and I wish to communicate this in a language understood by all.

To say YES together . . . we have a new word!

*At the age of 20, Sister Janine Corbett is the youngest Medical Mission Sister. A native New Yorker, she entered the Society in September 1968, and is presently a pre-med student at the University of San Francisco.*

The poor, the weak, the have-nots—it is for them I choose to live my life. That is the life of Christ: a message of good news, very vulnerable, not spread by power, nor with economic or political advantage.

Up till now, I have not had many experiences of other cultures. I have only read books about the difficulties to adapt, to grow into another culture. But I am not afraid. Soon I will speak the language of the people. It is not a matter of studying grammar or lists of words, but to understand, really understand, in mind and heart.

I go with the confidence that I have something to share. The hunger of mankind—it is a challenge to my life. My work will just be a little help for some people in one part of the world, but perhaps it is enough.

*Sister Elly Verrijt is a 25-year-old Dutch Medical Mission Sister. This past summer, she completed an orientation period at the headquarters of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations in Rome. Sister Elly recently left for her first mission assignment in East Java, Indonesia, where she will be working as a rural home economist for a community development project in the villages around Surakarta.*

to do with your hands
what your heart believes
without guessing
if it ever reaches man,
flowers, clouds

to sing with your lips
the songs seen
by your eyes
but who knows
if they are ever heard

to dance on ways
of fear and to
know how your
words give flowers
in the garden of Eden

and then wait for
Yahweh; he is coming
in the freshness of evening
after a hot midday-sun.

Elly

I see my Medical Mission vocation as a serious commitment to God and man which requires a daily "going out of self" in order to give to the needs of men with the love of Christ. Being a doctor is an opportunity to do this loving and giving in a very direct and tangible way—but it's hard work.

During my three months in India, I saw many people in need. Preventive medicine, especially health education, sanitation and immunizations, could do much to lessen the illnesses of those who come to our hospital and clinics every day.

The people of Mandar (where I worked for about ten weeks) are industrious farm folk who appreciate all we do for them. They seem to be living in a complex culture filled with many contrasts—rich and poor, educated and illiterate, superstitious and deeply contemplative.
I feel a certain kinship to India now, after having experienced their great needs, but I am also attracted to the needs and temperament of the African people.

*Sister Annette Heiser, M.D., was born in Tryon, North Carolina, 30 years ago, and entered the Society in 1958. During her senior year at St. Louis University College of Medicine, she received a Smith, Kline and French Foreign Fellowship and elected to work in India for three months. Sister received her medical degree in May 1969 and is planning to take her residency in Pediatrics.*

The question I am most asked is why I want to be a missionary to my own country. Naturally, I am concerned for my people. When I was younger, I never knew that we were a country lacking in health facilities, never realized how many sick and suffering people there were. As I grew older, I came to see these things and knew that I wanted to be a nurse and a Sister, and that I wanted to heal, not only my own people, but other peoples in need.

When I entered the community, we were still under the old structure, and I felt I belonged because we went to breakfast together, we stood up together, we sat down together. I didn't make deep ties with anyone, so I didn't get hurt. Then, things became more relaxed, less rigid, and there were less things we did together as a group. I began to form friendships that were deeper than they had been before. It was painful, very painful making friends, and terrible, terrible to leave them. The choice to love deeply has no easy consequences, but I'm willing to face them, knowing that the friends I've made, wherever they may be, at whatever end of the pole they are, are all striving for the same goals I am.

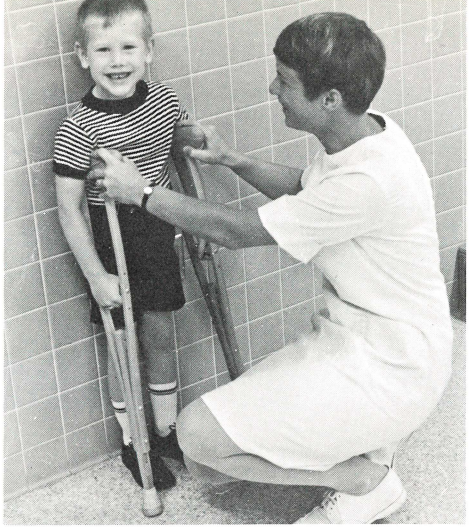
*Sister Philomena Faria was born in Karachi, West Pakistan, in 1944. A nurse-midwife, she entered the Society in 1966, the first Pakistani to do so. Her formation as a Medical Mission Sister has taken her from Karachi to Rome to Philadelphia and, now, to Dacca, East Pakistan, where she is taking part in a cultural orientation pilot project.*

I waited four long, anxious years to enter this community and persevered through all the distractions and alternatives to religious life that a college coed meets. But each new experience, each new person, each new thing I learned helped me to gain insights into myself and begin to see how this "new me" might fit into Medical Mission Sisters.

I know that physical therapists are needed in this country but I can't ignore the fact that there is an acute need for medical professionals in other parts of the world. Only a few of our Sisters are physical therapists, so my services can be readily used.

I want to be where the action is. I want to be a part of a group that really cares about people, a group whose whole direction is in tune with the Gospel as it speaks to modern man. When I entered, there was the risk of being disappointed, but I wasn't. Instead, I found the Medical Mission Sisters more dynamic and vibrant, more open to change and progress, than I had imagined. I want to be part of this!

*Janet Harbauer is a 23-year-old physical therapist from Perrysburg, Ohio. After graduating from Ohio State University in 1968, she had a year of practical work experience, then entered the Society on September 20, 1969. Janet is presently in the Introductory Phase of her formation, having classes in Scripture and Contemporary Theology, and working part-time in the community's general offices.*



I do not think that it is important to be like others, but rather, to be with others. I have had rich encounters and relationships with many people who have helped me in my process of becoming. Because of this, my ability to participate in the creative moment of another means much to me.

I am convinced that the social welfare problems of a people cannot be approached intelligently without a large concern for their leisure needs and interests. Soon I will be joining the Capetown community and hope to begin exploring new possibilities for developing programs which will contribute to the total well-being of the South African people.

At the moment, I see the Society in a state of constant change. For me, this involves a process of moving forward. It is hopeful. In our Society, I believe I have found this hope in the now and in the future. It is a hope of openness which expects and accepts that new things will happen.

*Sister Karen Fernsten was born in California 26 years ago and holds a Master's Degree in Recreation Therapy from San Francisco State College. A talented guitarist and composer, she entered the Medical Mission Sisters in September 1968 and is presently engaged in a year of studies (Anthropology, Linguistics, Comparative Religions) prior to leaving for her first mission assignment to Capetown, South Africa.*

**"Moonlight through the trees, dancing on the leaves,**
**Ask me where I've been and where I'm bound.**
**For my heart is light and longs for the right**
**To freely pick and choose,**
**To seek far lands and offer a hand**
**To lighten my brother's load . . ."**

***From Karen's song "Where I'm Bound"***

If you ask me about it, "growth" means you have to move forward—like an arrow, not like a wheel turning in upon itself. You move forward, driven by some inner impetus, drawn toward some attraction, sometimes vague, sometimes mixed-up, reluctant to spell itself out. I think you have to move on and not coil within because of fears and hold-backs, because of deep hurts. There's an invitation and you just take it for what it is with all the extra perception for the aura of NOW. It's really hard, though, to live in the "here and now."

Bongao still has a strong claim on me and I get excited over the possibility of being able to go back there. The mere thought peps me up and makes me look forward—to a future of wild dreams and imaginations. This is part of what I mean when I say it's difficult to live in the here and now. My tendency is always to respond to the situation where I sense a felt need for me as a person. I keep waiting for the amusing surprises of tomorrow.

*Sister Edna Talosig, a Filipina from Manila, had her BS in nursing before she entered the Society in 1966. A nine-month program in missionary catechetics from the East Asian Pastoral Institute in Manila, a year's working experience as a staff nurse at an Episcopalian hospital also in Manila and a summer relief job at the Society's small but vigorous Holy Family Clinic in Bongao, in the southernmost part of the Philippines, all prepared Edna in a special way for the next phase of her "growth"—taking part in the Cultural Orientation Pilot Program now underway at the Oriental Institute in Barisol, East Pakistan.*

The Servi.
Yamaha

*Sister Lucy in concert with Rev. Jerry Hardy, Cathedral of Christ the King, Atlanta.*

Father, I am here in your name, in the name of Jesus your Son, in the name and power of the Spirit.

I wish to make myself totally available for the service of our building earth —service expressed through the ministry of the Church as it proclaims and makes present your good news to man's need.

Seeing the reality of my own limitations, I say YES to the collaboration of the Medical Mission Community according to its Constitution.

Sensing the demand of complete availability, I say YES to the radical, though creative aloneness of celibacy.

Seeing the diversity of need, I say YES to a life-style of rootlessness, simplicity and a capacity for the unexpected.

Knowing my own lack of vision, I say YES to an effort at open listening to your sign and word in our time through your Spirit.

This assent is my commitment, decisive and glad, full of hope . . .

*With the above words, Sister Lucy Whalen made her commitment for life to the Society on August 15, 1969.*

*Sister Lucy Whalen is a 28-year-old Brooklynite for whom Medical Mission venture began in 1961. She finished her Bachelor of Science in nursing at the University of Pennsylvania, did some work toward a Master's in Religious Education, and "went south" to work at Holy Family Hospital in Atlanta. This past November, she left for her first mission assignment in Maracaibo, Venezuela.*

To be totally involved in today's
world in movement—knowing that:
each age
each time
each place
each culture
has different answers to the
same basic questions—means that
*each one of us* will be challenged
and *will have to commit herself*
not only once for all
*but again and again*
and this with the support of the
community but nevertheless very
much on her own.

For the future
we see ourselves
involved individually and in groups
in a variety of works of healing;

committed to peoples and nations;
more concerned with doing things
*with* people and not
*for* them or *to* them;

self supporting and therefore
more realistic as to what life
is all about for the people
with whom we share our lives;

women who can
participate and share,
concerned about all social issues
and realizing that our healing
mission involves getting to the
cause of health problems;

cognizant of the benefits
of living and working
with and through
a group with common ideals;

going forward in awareness of the
risks and uncertainties involved
but vital and vigorous
in the measure in which
our life and work remain
authentic.

*Message directed to all the members of the Society from the Central Administrative Board at the close of its annual meeting. November, 1969.*

*Editor:*
Sister Miriam Therese Winter

*Associate Editor:*
Sister Marilyn DiCarlo

*Art Director:*
Sister Victoria Connelly

*Photo Credits:*
Sister Barbara Dillon: pp. 5, 10, 11, 14.
Sister Victoria Connelly: pp. 12, 13, 15.
F. Botts: pp. 6, 7.
Sylvia Thorn: p. 18.

"Where I'm Bound" (p. 15).
Copyright: Karen Fernsten, 1969.

# NEWS CAPSULES

■ The responsibility for the Catholic Maternity Institute in Santa Fe, N.M., has been transferred to a lay Board of Directors. The Board has voted to change the name from Catholic Maternity Institute to Community Maternity Institute and has set the following as its two-fold goal: (1) to develop the means whereby the community can participate in the solutions to the problem of making complete maternity services available to every pregnant mother according to her needs, and (2) to determine the long-range roles that the Institute can play in maternity services, nurse-midwifery, nurse-midwifery education, or other endeavors.

■ Our two-year program for auxiliary nurses and midwives in Patna, North India, is in full-swing and will hopefully provide future personnel for the expansion of our public health nursing department there.

■ Sister Jane Burns, who recently completed a year of Scripture studies at L'Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem, is presently on the faculty of the Religion Department at St. Peter's College, Jersey City, N.J.

■ A few of our Sisters have become involved in the Pastoral Orientation Center in Kerala, South India, which aims at giving an 18 months' intensive course in leadership to the religious and laity of the area. The Center is sponsored by the Kerala Bishops Conference and, at present, has 30 students enrolled.

■ Sister Victoria Connelly's colorful inside and back covers for the *Medical Missionary* have won her the 1969 award for Best Illustrations from the Catholic Press Association.

■ A pharmacy paper written by Sister Paulette Elking, entitled "Drug Induced Modifications of Laboratory Test Values" has won the Mead Johnson award, part of which includes a check for $1000. This paper is also being used nationally by pharmacy students doing research projects.

■ For the second year, Sister Miriam Therese Winter has been named to the Popular Awards List of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) in recognition of her 37 recorded Scripture songs. A new recording, entitled "Seasons," is scheduled to be released at the end of the year.

■ Sister Jean Lorenz has been elected a Vice-President of CODEL (Cooperation in Development), a newly incorporated organization representing some 25 non-profit groups engaged in international development. The members of CODEL (of whom the most recent are "Meals for Millions" and the National Council of Churches) are interested in achieving greater cooperation in their mutually shaped goals of providing self-help and self-sustaining opportunities for the socially, educationally, and economically disadvantaged. The main function of the new organization is to jointly seek funds from major funding organizations, i.e., foundations, industry and government.

# SEASONS

A season is a moment.
It can be a lifetime.
SEASONS is an album about moments and lifetimes. It contains 12 original songs written by Sister Miriam Therese Winter that express the struggle, hope, growth and harvest in the life of every man.

BALLAD OF THE SEASONS
LET THERE BE PEACE
IF YOU LOOK
SHOUT THE GOOD NEWS
and 8 others, all possessing the same contagious joy and gentleness that characterize Sister's three previous albums.

SEASONS is available now. To order copies, just fill in the coupon below. Perhaps you will find your OWN special season!

SEASONS available as a stereo/mono compatible for $5.00

Please send me _____ SEASONS stereo/mono albums at $5.00 each. Also available: _____ JOY IS LIKE THE RAIN, _____ I KNOW THE SECRET, _____ KNOCK! KNOCK!, _____ MASS OF A PILGRIM PEOPLE (stereo/mono compatibles, $5.00 each)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

(Please include 25¢ for postage and handling.)

Send to: MEDICAL MISSION SISTERS, 8400 Pine Road, Philadelphia, Pa 19111

MEDICAL MISSION SISTERS in:
Rawalpindi, West Pakistan
Karachi, West Pakistan
Dacca, East Pakistan
New Delhi, India
Patna, India
Mandar, India
Bombay, India
Poona, India
Bharananganam, Kerala, India
Chetipuza, Kerala, India
Mundakayam, Kerala, India
Ithithanam, Kerala, India
Kottayam, Kerala, India
Berekum, Ghana, W. Africa
Techiman, Ghana, W. Africa
Kokofu, Ghana, W. Africa
Fort Portal, Uganda, E. Africa
Atat, Ethiopia, E. Africa
Nangina, Kenya, E. Africa
Phalombe, Malawi, Cent. Africa
Blantyre, Malawi, Cent. Africa
Kasina, Malawi, Cent. Africa
Inongo, Congo, Cent. Africa
Kiri, Congo, Cent. Africa
Pendzwa, Congo, Cent. Africa
Welkom, OFS, South Africa
Amman, Jordan
Quinhon, South Vietnam
Jakarta, Indonesia
Makassar, Sulawesi, Indonesia
Solo, Djawa, Indonesia
Pare-Pare, Sulawesi, Indonesia
Bongao, Sulu, Philippines
Lipa City, Philippines
Quezon City, Philippines
Imstenrade, Simpelveld, Holland
Utrecht, Holland
Rome, Italy
Osterley, England
Essen, Germany
Maracaibo, Venezuela
Atlanta, Georgia, USA
Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA
Washington, D.C., USA
St. Louis, Missouri, USA
Los Altos, California, USA
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

# WE ARE YOUNG AND STRONG AND LIVING A GREAT AD-VENTURE

anne frank